

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19172 01 OF 02 151728Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 IO-13 TRSE-00
EA-10 MCE-00 PM-05 SP-02 /066 W
-----078956 151737Z /42

R 151716Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3305
INFO FAA BRUSSELS
FAA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 19172

FAA WASHDC FOR AIA-1

E. O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ABRAHAM VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: PARIS 17343

1. CIVIL AIR ATTACHE MET WITH FRENCH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, CLAUDE ABRAHAM, ON JUNE 14 RE AMBRAHAM'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON TO ADDRESS THE INTERNATIONAL AVIATION CLUB ON JUNE 20. THE MEETING CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS COOL. ABRAHAM STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH HIS ADDRESS WILL DEAL WITH U.S. INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICY, HE HAD NO PLANS TO MEET OFFICIALS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, DOT OR CAB ON THIS OCCASION. THE ONLY AGENCY HE PLANNED TO VISIT WAS FAA WHERE AN APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN ARRANGED WITH DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR QUENTIN S. TAYLOR. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THE DISCUSSION THERE TO BE GENERAL.

2. THE ONLY SPECIFIC QUESTION HE MENTIONED THAT HE MAY
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PAGE 02 PARIS 19172 01 OF 02 151728Z

RAISE WAS THE FAA'S UNWILLINGNESS TO GRANT TSO'S (TECHNICAL STANDARD ORDERS) FOR FOREIGN AIRCRAFT AND COMPONENTS UNLESS THERE WAS A PROSPECTIVE UNITED STATES PURCHASER FOR THE EQUIPMENT. THIS POLICY HE DESCRIBED AS BEING PROTECTIONIST AND IMPEDING THE SALE OF FRENCH PRODUCTS IN THIRD COUNTRY MARKETS WHERE THE NATIONAL AIRWORTHINESS REGULATIONS MAY REQUIRE FAA CERTIFICATION

AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTABILITY. HOWEVER, THE ONLY SPECIFIC EXAMPLE HE WOULD GIVE DEALT WITH A RECENT PROPOSED SALE OF AIRCRAFT SEATS TO JAPAN WHICH DID NOT GO THROUGH BECAUSE THERE WAS NO FAA TSO COVERING THEM. WE OBJECTED TO ABRAHAM'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE FAA POLICY AS PROTECTIONIST; AND POINTED OUT THAT, SINCE FAA'S CERTIFYING RESOURCES WERE LIMITED, SOME CRITERION HAD TO BE DEvised TO GOVERN THEIR ALLOCATION AMONG A WIDE RANGE OF AERONAUTICAL PRODUCTS FROM AN INCREASING NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. THE IDEA OF REQUIRING THAT THERE BE A US PURCHASER DID THUS NOT APPEAR UNREASONABLE, WE MAINTAINED, AS AFTER ALL FAA'S MISSION DID NOT INCLUDE FACILITATION OF FOREIGN SALES TO THIRD COUNTRY MARKETS. HOWEVER, ABRAHAM CONTINUED TO INDICATE HE CONSIDERED THIS REQUIREMENT A PROTECTIONIST DEVICE AND HE POINTED OUT THAT FRANCE WILL ISSUE ITS EQUIVALENT QAC CERTIFICATES TO QUALIFYING FOREIGN EQUIPMENT AT THE REQUEST OF THE MANUFACTURER WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A PROSPECTIVE FRENCH PURCHASER.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19172 02 OF 02 151738Z
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DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 IO-13 TRSE-00
EA-10 MCE-00 PM-05 SP-02 /066 W
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 19172

3. DURING THE CONVERSATION WE REFERRED TO THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF FAA AND FRENCH EXPERTS TO CONSIDER NEW AERONAUTICAL R & D COOPERATIONS (FAA 081844Z JUNE 78

AND PREVIOUS) AS POSSIBLY INAUGURATING A NEW ERA OF FRENCH-US COLLABORATION IN AN IMPORTANT AREA. ABRAHAM DECLINED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPING IN THIS FIELD BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID THAT EVERYTHING WILL DEPEND ON THE TERMS AND AMOUNT OF REAL PARTNERSHIP FAA IS WILLING TO OFFER.

4. COMMENT: ABRAHAM WAS UNWILLING TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY DISCUSSION OF THE PAN-AM CHANGE OF GAUGE ISSUE, BUT IT WAS QUITE EVIDENT THAT THE SHADOW OF THIS CONTROVERSY (AS WELL AS HIS MORE GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH THE EVOLUTION OF US INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICY) IS CLOUDING HIS APPROACH TO OTHER US-FRENCH AERONAUTICAL QUESTIONS. SINCE ABRAHAM IS CONFINING HIS VISIT TO THE TOP LEVELS OF FAA IT MAY BE USEFUL TO CATALOG ANY OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 19172 02 OF 02 151738Z

CONCERNS HE EXPRESSES RESPECTING AIRWORTHINESS, R&D NAVIGATION AND OTHER TECHNICAL ISSUES THAT MAY TAKE ON A LARGER IMPORTANCE IN THE PERIOD AHEAD IF OUR AVIATION ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WITH FRANCE CONTINUE.

5. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, WE WOULD WELCOME A FULL REPORT ON WASHINGTON CONVERSATION WITH ABRAHAM. ALSO, IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE U.S. R&D TEAM BRIEF EMBASSY CIVIL AIR ATTACHE RE JUNE 20-22 MEETING WITH FRENCH (AS REQUESTED PARIS 17156) IN LIGHT OF ABRAHAM ATTITUDE MENTIONED ABOVE.
HARTMAN

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